



Introducing Danish Probates

Class Objective:

This class is an introductory class introducing you to the Danish Probates:

1. A short overview and background
2. what information can be found in the probates
3. where can probates be accessed

Introduction:

Probates are records involving the legal transfer of property upon the death of its owner, and exist in practically every country. The records often give information on family relationships and are invaluable in helping a person trace Danish ancestors. Fortunately many of the probate records are preserved, and many pre-date church registers.

Types of Probate Records:

- “Skifteprotokollerne”: Administrations of estates
- “Overformynderi protokollerne”: Guardianship supervisions
- “Testamenter”: wills

Probate Jurisdictions:

- Copenhagen City (København)
- Other Cities (Købstaderne)—Ålborg, Horsens, Fredricia etc
- Rural areas (“paa landet”)—local parishes

Cities other than Copenhagen:

Probate jurisdiction of the cities was under the direction of city officials until 1919 when it was made the responsibility of the “Underrets dommer”/local judges. (Exception: Copenhagen).

Pre 1816: clergy and persons working with the clergy, and the schools (including wives and children) had special probate court under the jurisdiction of the Herreds Provsti (district deans).

A few cities had special probate jurisdictions;

- Horsens - the Russian princely court, from 1781
- Helsingør - Øresund customs office, 1793-1815
- Fredericia - Jewish, 1736-1814

Rural areas:

- Godser-for private land estates or manors (each parish can have numerous manors/estates within its boundaries; each responsible for keeping probate records for the persons living on their property). In order to find your ancestors probate you need to

know the name of the manor.

Example: A Danish Parish:

Numerous estates owned property in this parish. Each estate kept probate records for the farmers living on their land. Where would you look for the probate records? The Family History Library Catalog will show you which farms and villages can be found on what estate!

“Gods’ in Skallerup parish:

Topic	Denmark, Hjørring, <u>Skallerup</u> - Probate records
Titles	Skifteprotokoller, 1631-1850 Danmark. Baggesvogn gods (Vennebjerg herred)
	Skifteprotokoller, 1716-1813 Danmark. Vennebjerg herreds provsti (Hjørring)
	Skifteprotokoller, 1719-1810 Danmark. Rønnovsholm gods (Hjørring)
	Skifteprotokoller, 1721-1811 Danmark. Fuglsig gods (Hjørring)
	Skifteprotokoller, 1740-1818 Danmark. Åstrup gods (Hjørring)
	Skifteprotokoller, 1744-1817 Danmark. Kærsgård gods (Hjørring)
	Skifteprotokoller, 1744-1840 Danmark. Villerup gods (Hjørring)
	Skifteprotokoller, 1791-1812 Danmark. Hjørring pastorats og kapellanis gods (Hjørring)
	Skifteprotokoller, 1794-1869 Danmark. Herredsret (Horns herred, Hjørring)

If you were looking for a probate in Skallerup in 1811, you may have to look through eight of the probate records (from the various gods) listed to be sure you have covered all your bases.

Skifteprotokoller, 1631-1850

Authors:

[Danmark. Baggesvogn gods \(Vennebjerg herred\)](#)

Parish, county, and place names

[SOGN Amt Stednavne]: **SINDAL** Hjørring Sindal, Øster Sindal, Sindal Lund, Sindal Skov, Sindal Nørgård, Sindal Gade, Sommerdal, Bradsholt, Lille Bradsholt, Skjelstrup, Nymark, Slotved, Ulstedbo, Gildkrog, Bolleholt, Bkoven Røgelhus, Baggesvogn, Baggesvogn Mølle, Ledet, Tværkjær, Heden, Stokholm, Veiberg, Langheden, Ordmoose, Stoksdal, Tågholt, Lille Tveden, Nymark, Bidfra, Fortune, Tommelbak, Menholt, Rævbak, Tronsig, Lilholt **ASTRUP** Hjørring Store og Lille Ryd, Bjørnsbølle, Sandager, Sparrevogn, Risberg, Borrisholt, Bakken TÅRS Hjørring Klarup, Engene **MYGDAL** Hjørring Lilleholt Uggerby Hjørring Stabæk RUBJERG Hjørring Rubjerg **SKT. OLAI** Hjørring Vellinghøj, Gårestrup **SKALLERUP** Hjørring Skallerup Klit **VIDSTRUP** Hjørring Vidstrup

- Amt og Amtstue - for the counties
- Rytterdistrikter - for the cavalry districts

- Herrederne - for the districts

The Danish Law of Christian V of 1683 (the first law code for Denmark)

Notice should be made immediately after the death of a person to the local authority

A probate should be written if:

- Survived by minor heirs
- Heirs were absent from home
- Had no heirs

Estate was sealed for final inventory and administration

- 30 days after death, estate as to be registered by probating officials in the presence of heirs and guardians
- Inventory and appraisal of all property
- Total debt and assets
- Settlement and distribution of estate among heirs indicated
- Signed by heirs, guardians, and probating authority

No widower or widow could, by law, remarry before the deceased's estate had been settled with the legal heirs.

If none of the heirs were minors, and all heirs were present, the family could act under their own private jurisdiction; unless, of course the family wanted a legal proceeding.

Only about 25% of the population had a probate!

Guardians:

- Guardians were needed for widows (laugvæрге) and children (væрге) 25 years or younger.
- Usually a close relative: father, grandfather, uncle, or brother 25 years or older
- Court could appoint a suitable guardian

Probate content:

- Date of registration
- Name of the deceased
- Residence
- Possible date of death
- List of all legal heirs, their relationship and residence
- Ages of surviving heirs (especially the minor children)
- Names of husbands of married daughters, and their places of residence
- Names of wives and children's guardians (possibly relationships)
- Estate inventory listing assets and liabilities
- Names of probate officials
- Names of witnesses and/or appraisers
- Reference to any earlier documents relating to the inheritance of property

- Settlement of the estate-distributions to the heirs and creditors
- If any children are dead and left descendants, they will be listed

Where to find the probate records online:

FamilySearch Wiki-Denmark:

Go to “Denmark Research Tools”- Find **Denmark Websites**-click on it. You will see:

- Digitized Probate Records online
- Erik Brejl: Extractions for Aarhus, Skanderborg, and Viborg: <https://www.brejl.dk/>
- Aurelia Clemons: Extracted records: <https://aurelia-clemons.dk/>

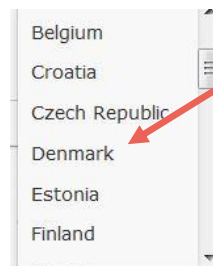
FamilySearch Wiki- Denmark: find links to various online probate records:
https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Digitized_Danish_Records_Online_-_Arkivalieronline

FamilySearch.org – Record search

Go to FamilySearch.org, select **Search** then **Records**. Click on map then choose Denmark as a location.

Research By Location

Click an area of the world to start researching in a specific location.



Choose a Location

Select a location from the list to the left to begin your research.

A new page will open; scroll down until you see the following: “*Select Denmark Estate Records, 1436-1964*”—click on it.

Denmark Image Only Historical Records



Can't find records for your ancestors when you search? Try our collections that haven't been indexed yet. Select a collection to start browsing the images.

* = Recently added or updated

Birth, Marriage, and Death	Images	Last Updated
Denmark Church Records, 1484-1941	2,399,826	25 Mar 2014
Probate and Court	Images	Last Updated
Denmark Deeds and Mortgages, 1572-1928	4,364,468	01 Mar 2016
Denmark Estate Records, 1436-1964	2,608,645	25 Mar 2014

Next: click on “Browse through 2,608,645 images

Denmark Estate Records, 1436-1964

Description

Records created by estates across Denmark. Some estates cover multiple counties. In addition to record property, the estates also served as probate authorities and military conscription districts for persons at genealogical and biographical information on the families that owned the estates. The originals of these records are in the archives of Denmark.

[Learn more »](#)

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Citing this Collection

"Denmark Estate Records, 1436-1964." Images. *FamilySearch*. <http://FamilySearch.org> : 14 June 2016. (Copenhagen).

Choose a county, and a list of all the “Gods” (manors) in your particular county will appear.

If you don’t know the “gods” you can find that in the FamilySearch catalog. See above.

Probates on Arkivalieronline:

In the browser of your choice type in **sa.dk**. This will take you to the opening page of “arkivalieronline”.

Under **Vælg arkivalietype** choose **Find din slægt**. Click **search (søg)**. Scroll down (the list is in alphabetical order) and find references to various probate material.

See below: Here you can find probate records covering **Sønderjylland**, **Copenhagen**, “**hele landet**” –the whole country, **military** etc. Choose the one that will cover your particular interest.

Skiftemateriale, Sønderjylland	Forskellige typer af skiftemateriale fra Sønderjylland frem til omkring 1870. Se kvikvejledning til skifter indtil 1919
Skifter fra København	Forskellige typer af skiftearkivalier fra København frem til ca. 1919. Skiftevesenet i København var meget anderledes end i resten af landet.
Skifter, hele landet	Forskellige typer af skiftearkivalier fra hele landet, undtaget København, frem til ca. 1919. Se kvikvejledning til skifter indtil 1919
Skifter, militære	Skiftemateriale fra militære myndigheder, rytterregimenterne m.v.
Skiftevesen - Registre og hjælpemidler	Her kan du finde navneregistre og andre hjælpemidler hvis du vil finde oplysninger om boet efter en af dine forældre.

“Skifter, hele landet” (probates from the whole country) can be very helpful. While many parishes seem to have *only indexes*, many parishes have indexes to probates *as well as* the probates themselves. That is exciting!

Vocabulary:

Danish	English
Afgangne	The departed
Arvinger	Heirs
Broder lod	Brother part of inheritance
Deling i mellom	Division between... (usually between spouse and children)
Efterlade	To leave behind
Efterladte	The bereaved
Efterlevende	The survivors (family)
Ejendom	Property
Enke	Widow
Enkemand	Widower
Formynder	Guardian
Laugværge	Guardian for the surviving wife
Myndig	Of age
"... og deres i Egteskab sammenaflede Børnen"	"and their, in marriage, together produced children"
Salig kvinde, kone	The blessed woman, wife
Salig man, husbonde	The blessed man, husband
Skifteprotokoller	Inventory, probate
Stervboe	Estate
Søster lod	Sister part of inheritance
Vurderingsmænd	Appraisers
Værge	Guardian for the underage children

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